Transmission/Delivery of Money Orders Through FAX

872. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for transmission/delivery of money orders through FAX in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme would also cover the State of Assam; and

(d) what are the other States which are proposed to be covered under this Scheme by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Convenion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges

873. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of electronic Telephone exchanges which are functioning in the State of Assam at present;

(b) what is the number of telephone exchanges which are to be converted into electronic exchanges in Assam by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount to be spent on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 231 electronic exchanges are functioning in the State of Assam as on 31-3-93.

(b) 3 exchanges are proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges during Eighth Five Year Plan

(c) Rs. 6,32,62,013/-.

ISD/STD Facility in Telephone Exchanges of Assam

874. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges in Assam which are provided with ISD/STD facilities so far;

(b) what is the number of telephone exchanges to be provided with ISD/STD during the end of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) what is the amount to be spent on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 151 Telephone Exchanges in Assam are provided ISD/STD facilities as on 31.3.93.

(b) All Telephone Exchanges are proposed to be provided with ISD/STD facility by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) The amount is calculated on year to year basis—It depends upon the type of technology available.

Telecommunication and Telegraph Office in the Districts of Punjab

875. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecommunication Centre/Telegraph Office at Abohar and Fazilka where new SFT channels have been provided are not working properly because of non-airconditioning causing great difficulties to people and media;

(b) whether it is a fact that Telegraph Office at Fazilka did not function for more than one and a half month recently and the telegrams from Fazilka were sent to Bhatinda by messengers and it reaches their destination even after ordinary mail;

(c) whether this fact was brought to the notice of the competent authorities and even by group of M.Ps. to the Hon'ble Minister and no action has been taken to restore the system; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir; it is not a fact because SFT channels provided are terminated on electronic teleprinter which does not require air-conditioning environment and can work upto 45 degree celcious temperature.

(b) No, Sir. However, telegraph circuit working between Fazilka and Chandigarh was not upto the mark in May, 93 and on three days in June 93. Therefore, telegrams were sent by post to Chandigarh only on these three occasions in June 93.

(c) Yes, Sir: some complaints were received. Efforts were made to improve working of the telegraph circuit between Fazilka and Chandigarh with the result that efficiency of the circuit improved from 49 per cent in May, 93 to 87 per cent in June, 93.

(d) Fazilka combined office is provided with an electronic teleprinter and is now connected to computerised message transmission system at Chandigarh w.e.f. 22-6-93.

Tenders Floated by DOT

876. SHRI MATANG SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 29th June, 1993 captioned "Mittal to swing 95 crores DOT deals";

(b) what are the details of the tenders and enquiry floated by the Department of Telecommunications for the purchase of telephone instruments and the details of the quotation submitted by each of the tenderers; and

(c) whether any decision for the award of the contract has since been taken if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Telecommunications issued a tender for procurement of 15 lacs telephone instruments. The tender was opened on 16-3-1993. A list of the Type approved participants along with their quoted basic price for a telephone instrument is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The matter is under consideration.